

## HB 3130 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

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**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/7, 3/2

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates General Fund moneys to the Oregon Water Resources Department to fund a staff position to assist and advise local communities on the development, and assessment of opportunities and limitations of, voluntary agreements among ground water users from the same reservoir. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but not statement yet issued

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

##### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Removes advising, assisting and assessment responsibilities from staff position funded at the Oregon Department of Water Resources (OWRD). Allocates moneys to an entity within Harney County, jointly agreed to by the OWRD and Harney County Court for contracting with a qualified entity to advise and assist ground water users in the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern with developing voluntary agreements among ground water uses from the same ground water reservoir and to assess the opportunities and limitations of using them.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: No revenue impact

#### BACKGROUND:

Oregon's voluntary agreements law (ORS 537.745) authorizes the Water Resources Commission (Commission) to encourage, promote, and recognize voluntary agreements among ground water users from the same ground water reservoir. A voluntary agreement must comply with the intent, purposes, and requirements of the Oregon Ground Water Act, and undergo an approval process by the Commission. One of two approaches available for addressing and controlling ground water declines – the other being area designations and rulemaking – voluntary agreements have not yet been used in Oregon. Community-based water planning collaboratives report that significant uncertainties remain as to their contents, development, implementation.

House Bill 3130 would appropriate General Fund moneys to the Oregon Water Resources Department to fund a staff position to advise local communities on voluntary ground water agreements.